

10/560569

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 10 is a cross-sectional view showing an example of a precision sleeve in Fig. 7 onto which a spacer 8 14 made of an electric insulation material is interposed.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 27, line ⁴~~11~~, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The ferrule used for each fiber stub was made of zirconia ceramics. One ferrule sample with the shape shown in Fig. 3 and another ferrule with the shape shown in Fig. 3 15 were obtained by extrusion-molding a ceramic molded object in shape of cylinder hollow, followed by sintering and cutting them.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The above-mentioned ceramic precision sleeve 4 is preferably made of zirconia with high modulus of elasticity, in light of stress relaxation during attachment and detachment and optimization of press insertion. For approaches of machining the sleeve, a molded object to be the sleeve ~~1~~ 4, in shape of cylinder or rectangular solid is obtained in advance using a given molding method, such as injection molding, press molding, extrusion molding, and then the molded object is sintered at 1,300 to 1,500 degree-C, followed by cutting or grinding it to predetermined dimensions. Surface roughness of the inner face of the precision sleeve 4 is, in light of insertion, preferably 0.2 μ m or below in arithmetic mean roughness (Ra). Tolerances between the outer diameter of the plug ferrule PF and